## **BIG FIGHTS** OF THE PAST

Notable Contests in Republican Conventions Reviewed by Rufus Rockwell Wilson.

SEWARD ASIDE FOR LINCOLN

Two Grant Conventions-Conkling's Great Fight and Garfield's Dramatic Triumph.

By Rufus Rockwell Wilson,

Author of "Rambies in Colonial Days." WELVE times have the representatives of the Republican party met in national convention, when the first of these gatherings was held in Philadelphia on June 17, 1856, the party had been four months there been four months there. less than four months born, but there have been few assemblies in America inspired by nobler enthusiasm or larger hopes for the future. These hopes were well founded, for the Ph.ladelphia. convention marked the entrance of an or ganization that was to conduct the great est war of modern times, abolish slaver and maintain its power unbroken for a quarter of a century.

One of the surviving participants in that historic gathering is the now in-erable Galusha A. Grow, of Pennsylvala, who delights on occasion to talk of its labors. "The great question in \$55," and he not long ago, "was that or lavery. The naturalization or KnowNothing question, however, was also dom-

The old-time Whigs, whose chice for President was Just ce John Mo can, of Onlo, sided with the Know-Nahing or American party and favored ty modincation or abrogation of the turalizabrought forward John C. remont as their candidate, opposed the luow-Noth-ings and united with the Fre bill Democrats in upholding the existing naturalization laws. When one Phydelphia con vention met a resolution we reported to maintain the naturalizatio laws then on the statute books and, jough bitterly opposed by the friend of Justice McLean, it was finally apted. Its adoption naturally detented clean, and as no other name than the Frement was before the convention the latter was nominated on the fir ballot. Though Fremont was defeate at the polls, his nomination, considers the causes that nomination, considers the causes that led up to it, has a says seemed to me a wise one. The sand taken by the Philadelphia convolon on the question of naturalization with till then doubtful Northwestern states to Republicanism and made the permanently loyal to account the loss of the preover, the loss of the Presidency in D prepared the way for the great struck with slavery and as-sured the victy of 1860. With a temporary succes in 1856, the Republicans have en defeated in 1860 and have jugurated a series of com-es wislavery which would have ts aftion almost impossible."

The Firs Nomination of Lincoln When th Republican national convention met i Chicago, May 16, 1826, the homination Chicago, May 16, 1826, the homination When the Republican national convention met i Chicago, May 16, 1826, the homination When Seemed a foregone conclusion, and untwell toward its close his selection wiregarded as a certainty by all save a indful of delegates. Why, in the end, whe put as de and Linclin taken in hisacc? Andrew G. Curtin, of Pennsylvah, some years before his death, gave writer the answer to this question. A few weeks before the meeting of form the second of the resulting of the Pennsylvania. Strong as were theorem of Pennsylvania. Strong as were theorem of Pennsylvania, Strong as were theorem of the control of the line of the old Whigs would follow in chieffulns into the new Republican rity. The Democrats had nominated or Governor a man whose ability and opularity were sure to put the strength of the infant party to the severest test. A strong Presidential nomination would add greatly to the prospects of Republican success in Pennsylvania in October, and would have an incafellable effect on can success in Pennsylvania in October, and would have an incafelulable effect on the November contest. Upon the other hand, Curtin, weighted with a weak Presidential candidate, would probably fail of an election, and his defeat would reter most disastrously upon the national licket. Curtin believed that Seward was specially weak in Pennsylvania, and that his nomination would mean the deteat of both the State and national tickets.

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ago had tendered the convention a boat ride on the lake. The temptation to enjoy the excurson proved stronger than the desire to ballot, and this postponed the voting until Friday. Thursday night Lane and I saw all the State delegations and told the delegates that with Lincoin as the candidate we could carry Ind.ana and Pennsylvania in October by handsome majorities, but that if Seward was nominated our defeat was almost certain. These, interviews produced a marked effect, and as one of the results of our labors it was agreed among the Pennsylvania delegates that after giving a complimentary vote for Simon Cameron on the first ballot their entire support upon

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coin not only opposed his renomination, but strongly favored and privately promoted the solection of Johnson, the resolute and patriotic war Governor of Tennessee. It was not that Lincoln loved Hamlin less, but the country more. His one purpose was the restoration of the Union, and he believed that Johnson's name on the ticket would have a powerful influence among the war Democrata, who found in him their most conspicuous representative, while a ticket embracing both the North and the South, by showing that we were not a dismembered nation, would have a profound and salutary effect in Europe.

This is the story of the replacing of Hamlin by Johnson, as repeatedly told in recent years by men who enjoyed Lincoln's confidence, and should, therefore, speak with authority. On the ather hand, if Hamlin's grandson and blographer is to be believed, the change was due to another and very different cause, According to the younger Hamlin, the person chiefly responsible for the supersession of his grandiather by Johnson was Charles Summer. Strange as it may seem at first sight, Summer was Hamlin's personal friend at the time. He assumed that Hamlin, who had frequently expressed dissatisfaction with the office, did not desire a re-election to the Vice-Presidency, and it was Summer's hope that the people of Maine would promptly return him to the Senate instead of William Pitt Fessenden, who was a thorn in Summer's side, being a much abler dehater and always getting the better of his encounters with the Massachusetts Senator. So Summer induced the delegation from his State in the Baltimore convention to withhold its vote from Hamlin, and the New York delegation doing the same, the nomination eventually fell to Johnson.

Two Struggles for Vice-Presi-

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Grant's consent to become a candidate for the Presidency made his nomination by the Republican national convention, which met at Chicago on May 20, 1885, a mere matter of form. There was not a dissenting voice to his selection in the entre convention. However, considerable interest and excitement attached to the choice of a candidate for Vice-President. The names of Ben Wade, Beuben E. Fenton, and Schuyler Colfax were presented, and each had strong and able supporters, the friends of Wade, who, as presiding officer of the Senate, would have been President had Johnson been convicted on the impeachment charges, being especially earnest and active in his behalf. Their fight, though stubborn, was a hopeless one. On the fifth and final ballot Wade had but 38 votes to 5il for Colfax and 63 for Fenton.

A struggle over the nomination for Vice-President was also the principal feature of the Republican national convention held in Philadelphia on June 5. 1872. Grant's course as President had arrayed against him many of the ablest leaders of h.s party, but these, when the Philadelphia convention met, had already deserted the Republican standard to support the condidacy of Horace Greeley, and the President was renominated will-out opposition on the first ballot, 'Meighresdent Colfax was not self fortunate. He had suffered from ill-health during the preceding winter, and announced that he would not be a candidate, but later changed his mind and made a desperate battle to win what he had thrown away. The tide was turned against him by the Washington correspondents, who had become estranged from him, and on the second ballot he was defeated by Henry Wilson.

The First Defeat of Blaine.

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The Republican national convention which assembled in Cincinnati on June 14 1575, marked the opening of a new era in the bistory of the party. It met with an open field, and with a stage filled by men who had become prominent since the Civil War. The most conspicuous candidate was James G. Blaine, who, though still under fifty, had already gained a hold upon the masses equaling in warmth and enthusiasm that enjoyed by Henry Clay in earlier years. Other strong candidates were Oilver P. Morton, Roscoe Conkling and Benjamin H. Bristow, who had been Secretary of the Treasury under Grant, Pennsylvania had a candidate in John F. Hartranft, and Ohio offered one in Rutherford B. Hayes. All of the enthusiasm, however, was for Blaine, whose plurality on the first ballot was so great that his friends believed that the victory had been practically

commenced on the Section of Section 1 and the Section of Section 1 and the Section 1 minimal continuity upon the national interest most disastrossly upon the national licket. Curth seleved that Seward was baseleally weak in Pennsylvania, and that his nomination would mean the defeat of both the State and national tiest. The property of the second of t

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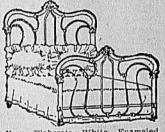
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